

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment to go along with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination.

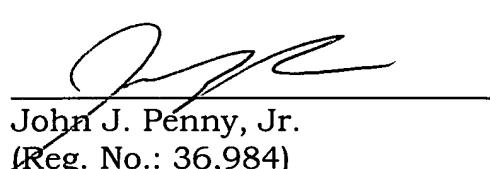
The Advisory Action dated December 30, 2003 indicates that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 5 and claims 2-4 and 7, which depend therefrom, are not allowable and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Regarding claims 1, 6, and 8-13, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable over the applied prior art for the reasons presented in the Response filed on November 24, 2003.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: January 9, 2004
Customer No.: 21874


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